

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 14 with the following replacement paragraph.

As laser 12 is being operated (step 1) in an application, such as in a stepper for wafer fabrication, a portion of its emitted light is directed to an etalon 16, or slits, or other conventional device which produces a fringe pattern 18 or other light pattern having light and dark areas (step 2). Further details regarding a suitable laser and optical elements for impinging laser light upon an etalon, and other background materials, may be found in the following patents assigned to the present assignee and incorporated herein by reference: U.S. Patent No. 5,025,445, entitled System For, and Method of, Regulating the Wavelength of a Light Beam, by Stuart Anderson et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,420,877, entitled Temperature Compensation Method and Apparatus for Wave Meters and Tunable Lasers Controlled Thereby, by Richard Sandstrom et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,095,492, entitled Spectral Narrowing Technique, by Richard Sandstrom; and U.S. Patent No. 5,450,207, entitled Method and Apparatus for Calibrating a Laser Wavelength Control Mechanism, by Igor Formenkov.

REMARKS

The above amendments amend the drawing and specification to correct obvious errors and to improve clarity. No new matter is added. Attachment A shows the amendments made to the specification. Accompanying this response are (1) a request to amend the drawings and (2) a terminal disclaimer.

Specification

The specification references U.S. Patent No. 5,025,445, entitled System For, and Method of, Regulating the Wavelength of a Light Beam, by Stuart Anderson et al., on page 5 without using the full patent number, then again on page 6 using the full patent number. The amendment to the specification corrects this obvious error.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 35 C.F.R 1.83(a) for failure to show every feature of the inventions specified in the claims. Due to a drafting error, the A/D converter 58 illustrated in FIG. 1B was marked as "D/A" instead of as "A/D" as described in the specification.

Claim Objection

Claims 1-12 are pending. The Examiner objected to claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 12 based on a "contradiction" with reference to the first amplifier and the summing amplifier. The Examiner stated that "[i]n the specification applicant's refers to the amplifier having unity gain but in claim 4 the gain is controlled. In figure 1B applicant illustrates a summing amplifier having a variable gain and the first amplifier having unity gain."

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's objection. The claim describes a processing circuit controlling the gain of a first amplifier. Claim 4 states in part that "said processing circuit detects a value of a digital output of said analog-to-digital converter and controls a gain of said first amplifier." The specification describes a unity gain summing amplifier and a controlled gain amplifier as illustrated in the embodiment of figure 1B. The unity gain amplifier described in the specification is not the "first amplifier" of claim 4. The amplifier of claim 4 is the controlled amplifier as described in the specification. The corrected drawing clarifying the label of the analog-to-digital converter should also clarify the understanding of the Examiner.

Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected the claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 16 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U. S. Patent No. 5,867,514 ("patent '514"). Only claim 2 of the '514 patent deals with an offset voltage related to the offset voltage in the pending claim 1. Thus,

Applicant respectfully disagrees that the present claims are obvious over the patent claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 16. However, for purposes of expediency, a Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed.

Accordingly, all claims are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 4/6, 2001.

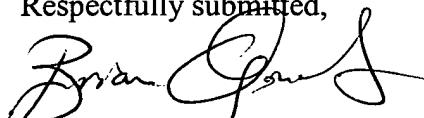


Attorney for Applicant(s)

4/6/01

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Brian D. Ogonowsky
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 31,988

Attachment A

In the following paragraph, the insertion is in bold typeface and underline.

The paragraph starting on page 5, line 14 is amended as follows.

As laser 12 is being operated (step 1) in an application, such as in a stepper for wafer fabrication, a portion of its emitted light is directed to an etalon 16, or slits, or other conventional device which produces a fringe pattern 18 or other light pattern having light and dark areas (step 2). Further details regarding a suitable laser and optical elements for impinging laser light upon an etalon, and other background materials, may be found in the following patents assigned to the present assignee and incorporated herein by reference: U.S. Patent No. 5,025,445, entitled System For, and Method of, Regulating the Wavelength of a Light Beam, by Stuart Anderson et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,420,877, entitled Temperature Compensation Method and Apparatus for Wave Meters and Tunable Lasers Controlled Thereby, by Richard Sandstrom et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,095,492, entitled Spectral Narrowing Technique, by Richard Sandstrom; and U.S. Patent No. 5,450,207, entitled Method and Apparatus for Calibrating a Laser Wavelength Control Mechanism, by Igor Formenkov.

CONT. FROM
FIG. 1A

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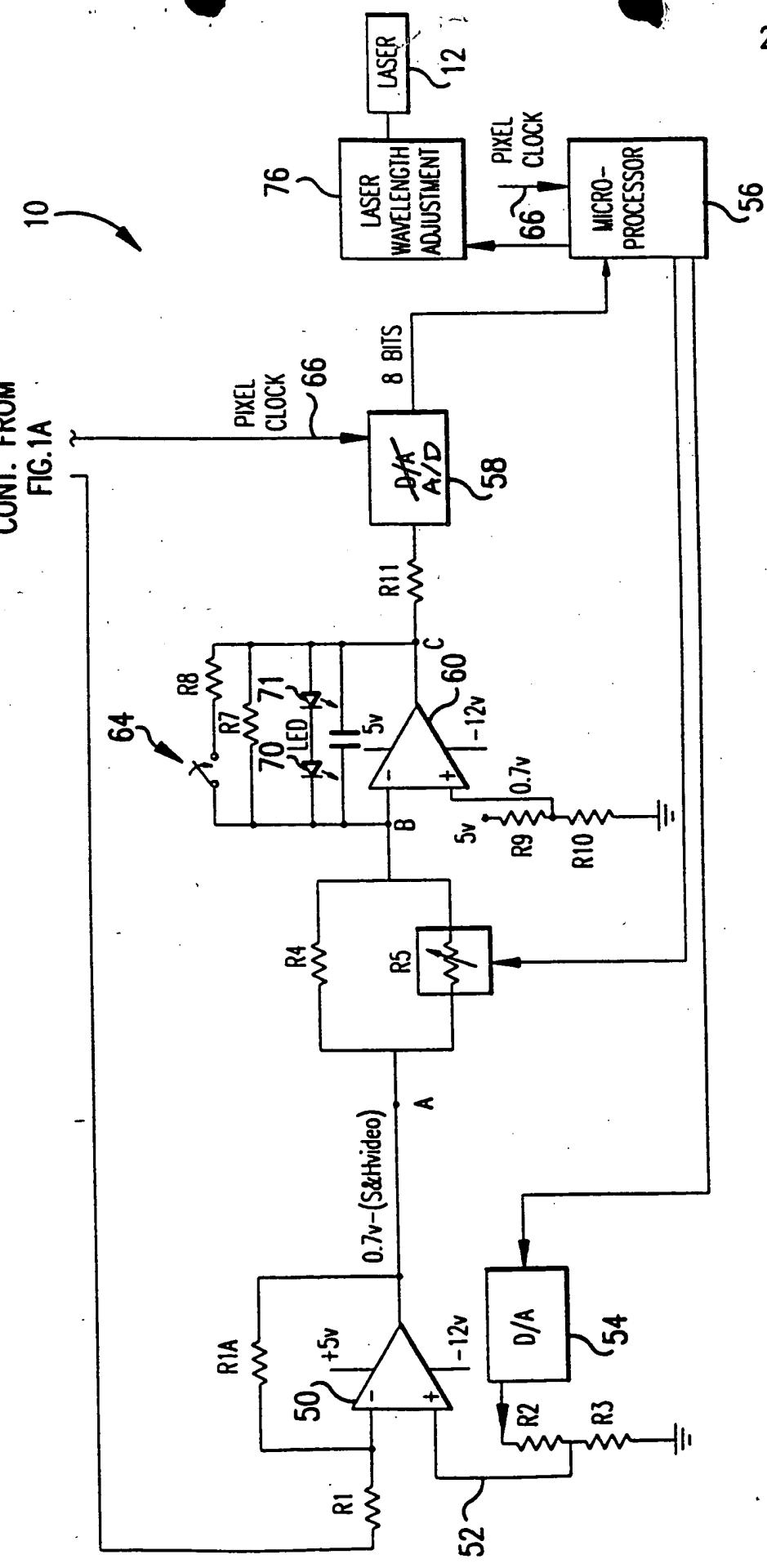


FIG. 1B